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Buzz Pg 18

Lohan's legging line launch

Stores cased by team of theives

HEIST Alberta law enforcement agencies believe a group of thieves is responsible for a string of thefts at jewelry stores in Calgary and Edmonton.

Edmonton police said yesterday they believe the group is responsible for robbing three businesses in Edmonton and two in Calgary.

In Calgary the group is believed to have robbed a store in the city's southeast and one at North Hill mall within three hours of one another Aug.27.

Police say the suspects pretend to be interested in buying some jewelry while they are actually just casing out the stores.

METRO CALGARY

Election 2008 pgs 6-8

- NDP's respectable showing
- Local riding results
- Conservatives shut out of Newfounland
- The end of Dion?
- May loses tough battle
- Minority means drama
- Women still seek equity

Entertainment p16

Calgarian stars in new drama

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, share a celebratory kiss yesterday at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre after Canadian voters handed the Conservative another minority government, winning 144 seats as of press time.

Mandate renewed

Harper secures second Conservative minority government

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the first Western leader to face the electorate since the financial meltdown, won a strengthened second minority government mandate yesterday, provisional results showed.

The Tories, who convinced voters they were the best choice to steer Canada through the economic turmoil, will still need opposition support to govern.

The result was Canada's third minority government in four years. Harper's Conservatives defeated a Liberal minority government in the January 2006 election.

Election 2008

Initial results showed the Conservatives got 37 per cent of the popular vote, just a fraction above the 36.3 per cent they got in 2006. Vote-splitting on the left meant the party ended up in a much stronger position.

Initial television projections put the Tories at 144 of Parliament's 308 seats, up from 127 they held before the election, but short of the 155 needed for a majority.

The opposition Liberals were at 77, down from 95, the Bloc Quebecois were steady at 48 seats and the New Democrats were up seven to 37 seats. Independents took two seats and the Greens won none.

"We were expecting a minority government. It looks like it will be a strengthened one. We're going to get right back to work, that's what people expect us to do," Health Minister Tony Clement told Global.

A Conservative majority looked within reach at times, but Harper lost major support in Quebec over cuts to arts funding. REUTERS

For complete election coverage from across the country go to metronews.ca

Tory clean sweep in Calgary

NEIL MACKINNON
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As the results poured in, it was instantly clear the Conservatives had scored big in all eight city ridings and by apparent hefty margins of victory, too.

Industry minister and Calgary Centre North incumbent Jim Prentice said few surprises bounced from the ballot box.

"Canadians have spoken and it's up to all the parties in the House of Commons from this point to respect what people have voted for and get on with making it work," Prentice told Metro.

Calgary West candidate Jennifer Pollock was disappointed with the result and believed the media played a part in the Liberal defeat.

"I think the media repeating (Harper's) lies when they knew they were lies, putting those into headlines, I think that's disappointing," she said.

Mount Royal College political scientist Duane Bratt said nothing short of the rise of another right-wing party would have hampered the ongoing Conservative constriction in Calgary.

"There hasn't been anything but right wingers elected here in 40 years and that's not going to change anytime soon," said Bratt.

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Mother to stand trial for teen's death
A provincial judge has ruled there was sufficient evidence to order Aset Magomadova, 37, to stand trial for second-degree murder in the strangulation death of her 14-year-old daughter, Aminet, in their southeast home last year. METRO CALGARY

Local

Help sought in robbery case

Police are asking for assistance in locating a person who may have information about a robbery earlier this month. On Oct. 2 a man brandishing a knife robbed a Mac's store located at 1264 68 St. NE and stole money from the cash drawer before fleeing. Police are looking for a Caucasian male, 5-ft tall with a skinny build, short black hair and clean shaven. Metro Calgary

Heritage fund takes $1B loss

ECONOMY Alberta's rainy day savings fund has taken a $1 billion hit because of the world banking crisis, confirmed Finance Minister Iris Evans yesterday.

During question period in the first day of the fall session yesterday, Evans said the province's Heritage Savings Fund has lost 10 per cent of its value since March 31 because of the market crisis, adding that Alberta was lucky it was only one-tenth.

"We are not getting hit hard compared to other places," said Evans.

With no deficit to pay off, Evans says Alberta has an advantage over other provinces and jurisdictions in weathering the crisis.

Since the Tory government based its royalty revenues at $79 a barrel for its budget last spring, Premier Ed Stelmach said last week that provincial coffers are still going to see a surplus.

The government also set aside $7.7 billion into a sustainability fund last spring.

JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO CANADA

Blue wave sweeps over Calgary

Vote tally is as of press time (10:30 p.m. MST)

Calgary Southwest
- Incumbent - Harper – Conservative – 30,448
- Lamontagne – Liberal – 3,916
- Christie – Green – 3,829
- Heffernan – NDP – 3,244
- Young - Libertarian – 246
- Heather - Christian Heritage Party of Canada – 207

Calgary Southeast
- Incumbent –Kenney – Conservative – 21,910
- Chandler – Green – 3,145
- Carroll – Liberal – 2,582
- Willott – NDP – 2,267

Calgary Centre North
- Incumbent – Prentice – Conservative – 23,158
- Chan – NDP – 6,171
- Donovan – Green – 4,793
- James – Liberal – 4,793
- McNeil - Libertarian – 287
- Askin – Marx - 142

Calgary West
- Incumbent – Rob Anders – Conservative – 23,179
- Pollock – Liberal – 8,507
- Weeks – Green – 4,359
- Phelps Bondaroff – NDP – 2,515
- Schmidt – Independent – 1,143
- Vachon – Marx – 105

Calgary East
- Incumbent –Obhrai – Conservative – 15,577
- Vaughan – NDP – 2,755
- Coates – Green – 2,294
- Kennedy – Liberal – 2,286
- Devine – Communist – 246

Calgary Centre
- Incumbent – Richardson – Conservative – 13,429
- Kim – Liberal – 4,334
- Odd – Green – 4,071
- Kinch – NDP – 2,371
- Grochowski – Independent – 246

Calgary Northeast
- Incumbent –Shory – Conservative – 11,798
- Kang – Liberal – 4,552
- Richard – Independent – 3,112
- Dey – NDP – 2,293
- Monty Ahmad – Green – 1,404
- Blanchard – Marx – 143

Calgary Nose Hill
- Incumbent – Ablonczy – Conservative – 15,339
- Newman – Liberal – 2,834
- Hajj – Green – 1,990

Sundberg – NDP – 1,818

METRO CALGARY

Police look for witnesses in latest murder

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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CRIME While police have confirmed an early morning stabbing on Sunday was the city's 29th homicide of the year, they haven't released the victim's name.

The autopsy determined the man believed to be in his mid-to-late 20s died as the result of a stabbing that occurred at the Cecil Hotel, where he died on scene.

Homicide Staff Sgt. Kevin Forsen said police haven't been able to locate the man's family yet.

"We will release the victim's name as soon as we are able to, in order to generate tips regarding his actions and whereabouts leading up to this incident," Forsen said, adding the investigation hasn't had many witnesses come forward.

Police are asking anyone with information to call them at 403-266-1234 or at Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

9,000 fined in speeding crackdown

PUNISHMENT City cops levied 9,000 traffic violations in a September crackdown on drivers speeding in playground and school zones.

Last year there were 4,246 tickets written during the same period but police say there was more this year because there were two radar units dedicated to the crackdown.

The police do this program every year when kids go back to school to remind motorists to slow down.

METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read complete coverage of last night's election at metronews.ca/canada
Watch MetroTube of the Day
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search
Play online Sudoku!

Cellar dwellers
The NDP came in last in five of Calgary's eight ridings; the Liberals came in last in two, and the Greens in one city riding.
METRO CALGARY

City's students mixed on voting

ELECTION The election yesterday was on the minds of every Canadian; well, almost.

While others cast their ballots, many students were focused on finishing up papers, studying for exams, and avoiding the polling booths.

"I've never paid attention to politics," said Karina Dalberg, a first year hospitality management student at SAIT, adding she's so wrapped up in everything else that it was hard to add the election to her slate.

But Carleigh Rutherford, also a SAIT student, said the importance of voting had been ingrained into her since she was little.

"I feel we're given a choice to have a voice and I don't see why people wouldn't take advantage of that," she said.

ALICIA FOX FOR METRO CALGARY

News in brief

HARPER Conservative party leader Stephen Harper easily won re-election in Calgary Southwest, taking nearly 73 per cent of the votes.

METRO CALGARY

Close races didn't materialize

NEIL MACKINNON
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In Calgary, apparently a tight race is calculated by the thousands.

Heading into last night's showdown at the polls, there were three Calgary ridings that looked to have some potential for movement.

Appearances being deceiving, that shift never happened.

Vote splitting in Calgary Northeast between independent Conservative Roger Richard and official Tory front-runner Devinder Shory never manifested in the gains Liberal contender Sanam Kang, who lost by at least 5,000 votes, hoped they would.

"It didn't work out the way we wanted it to," said Kang.

"I think my supporters are more depressed than I am."

In Calgary West, too, a slip was averted as five-time Conservative incumbent Rob Anders. Despite being criticized by opponents for being an absent around the riding and missing all but one all-candidates forum, Anders found his way back to Ottawa by more than 10,000 votes.

Anders, sticking to strictly scripted speaking points, said his opponents just didn't understand the electorate.

"The opposition was just not resonating with Canadians on crime," he said.

Even controversial comments from Calgary Centre incumbent Lee Richardson linking immigrants to the city's rising crime rate didn't take the sheen off Tory blue.

"Lee has been a strong advocate for this part of town for a long time," said Calgary Ald. John Mar at Richardson's celebration party. "Tonight it's about seeing this one more stage in his career."

JULIE VINCENT FOR METRO CALGARY

Ravneet Kang, wife of Calgary Northeast Liberal candidate Sanam Kang, and Kang's sister Navpreet, were smiling despite the loss to Conservative Devinder Shory. Kang had hoped vote splitting in the riding would help him emerge as the victor.

The Greens are growing in Calgary

POPULARITY The mood was exuberant last night at the Artists of the World Gallery in downtown Calgary where local Green Party candidates and their supporters are celebrating their rise in popularity in the city.

Natalie Odd

Although the party didn't win any seats everyone here is excited about the support they are receiving throughout the country, including 11.5 per cent popular vote in Calgary, up from 8.3 per cent in 2006. Nationally the party sat around 6.6 pre cent.

"What I'm seeing is very high expectations for the Green Party and rightly so. The green party has just grown and become stronger and you can see the support in the room tonight," Natalie Odd, Calgary Centre candidate said.

LINDSEY WALLIS FOR METRO CALGARY

Frost enters not guilty verdict

David Frost, a former minor hockey coach and NHL player agent, pleaded not guilty yesterday to four charges of sexual exploitation. He is being tried over alleged incidents involving 15 to 17-year-old boys and girls in 1996 and 1997, when he was coaching the Quinte Hawks junior hockey team in Ontario. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Canada

Search ongoing for missing sailors

A search continues for two Bangladeshi men who went missing after apparently trying to swim to shore from a cargo ship moored in Vancouver's English Bay. Three crew members were reported missing Monday morning from the Panamanian-registered tanker ship, Ginga Falcon, which was anchored less than a kilometre from shore. The body of one of the men was found Monday, but there has been no sign of the other two. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Charges dropped against soldier

DEATH The Canadian military has dropped all charges against Master Cpl. Robbie Fraser in connection with an incident that led to the death of his friend, Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

TERRORISM The last terrorism suspect, Hassan Almrei, held in custody on a national security certificate is seeking bail for the fourth time and has the backing of a wide spectrum of supporters, including Montreal filmmaker Alexandre Trudeau, a Kingston Islamic leader who has counselled prisoners for 30 years and a natural health practitioner.

DEAL The Canadian Auto Workers union said yesterday it has reached a tentative deal on new contracts for 475 of its members who work on the St. Lawrence Seaway, averting a strike that could have derailed grain shipments. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Doctors must care for mother, not kids

A doctor's professional obligations do not extend to unconceived children of female patients, the Ontario Court of Appeal has ruled in a case involving a girl left with birth defects from an acne drug taken by her mother.

Requiring physicians to look out for the welfare of yet-to-be-conceived children would force them into an impossible conflict between acting in the best interests of a woman they're treating and the welfare her future child, the court said in a unanimous decision yesterday. It would also have profound implications for society, by interfering with a woman's autonomy, including her right to have an abortion and make decisions about medical treatment, the court said in setting aside a trial judge's finding from two years ago.

"Because the woman and her fetus are one, both physically and legally, it is the woman whom the doctor advises and who makes the treatment decisions affecting herself and her future child," said Justice Kathryn Feldman, who wrote the judgment for a three-judge panel.

The court was ruling in the case of Jaime Paxton, 5, who was born severely disabled after her mother, Dawn, began taking Accutane, a drug known to cause catastrophic injuries to a fetus.

Shaffiq Ramji, the Newmarket doctor who prescribed the medication in 2002, believed there was no chance Dawn Paxton would become pregnant because her husband had undergone a vasectomy more than four years earlier.

Paul Paxton's vasectomy failed around the time his wife began using the drug.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parents' claims

- Through her parents, Jaime sued Ramji for negligence, arguing he had a duty to ensure children born to her mother wouldn't be exposed to the drug's risks.

Vote Trudeau makes his mark

CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

Liberal candidate Justin Trudeau smiles as he visits a polling station in his Papineau riding of Montreal yesterday.

Deadline set to pass in Taser case

RCMP A deadline on whether charges will be laid against the four RCMP officers involved in the Taser incident that led to the death of Robert Dziekanski will lapse this week.

Dziekanski, 40, died on Oct. 4, 2007, after he was Tasered by RCMP officers responding to a call at the Vancouver airport.

An inquiry into his death was supposed to start next Monday, but that has been postponed until next month. The inquiry will now start Nov. 12.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Did you know?
The longest-serving Canadian prime ministers were: Overall service — William Lyon Mackenzie King (21 years, five months, five days); continuous — Sir Wilfrid Laurier (15 years, two months, 26 days). METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

Expect more drama in House

Experts talk about possible scenarios with another Tory minority

As the dust settles from another federal election, Canadians may spend today blinking and wondering whether the past five weeks were just a dream.

But despite the same old outcome yesterday — Prime Minister Stephen Harper in charge of a minority government — the Canadian constitution does allow for some unlikely but interesting possibilities in the months to come.

Three constitutional experts weighed in with scenarios that could change the status quo.

A crucial thing to remember is while the Governor General is not obliged to follow the will of the prime minister, she has to be careful exercising this authority, said Edward McWhinney, a former Liberal MP who has advised heads of state on constitutional matters.

"The Governor General is part of our checks and balances and there is a discretionary role still. There is the power to act in certain circumstances, but the Governor General is not elected, and it is a power that would be used only with extreme caution," he said.

"The Governor General is entitled to inquire and find out whether somebody else will enjoy the confidence of the House." Professor emeritus Ned Franks

After an election the initiative remains with the prime minister, and he is entitled to face the House of Commons.

Once the House of Commons is in session, a minority government always has the chance of being defeated on a non-confidence motion.

This would not necessarily mean the calling of a new election, said Queen's University professor emeritus Ned Franks, especially if the vote were to occur within a few months of Parliament reconvening.

Instead, "the Governor General is entitled to inquire and find out whether somebody else will enjoy the confidence of the House," Franks said.

"This would not be (a party leader) just saying, 'Oh sure, I have it! No problem,'" he said. Rather, he said, two or even three parties would have to credibly undertake to enjoy the the confidence of the House together — and make a public commitment to govern as a partnership "for a period of say, two years."

However, University of Toronto professor emeritus Peter Russell felt coalition power-sharing was an unlikely prospect in the current political landscape, even if the Liberals were to hold the most seats.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NDP 'building project' will continue

NDP It wasn't the orange wave that NDP Leader Jack Layton predicted across Canada, but for the New Democrats it was a respectable showing last night with several new seats.

"We are up everywhere in popular vote," party spokesperson Karl Bélanger told Torstar News Service last night.

"We won a seat for the first time in Newfoundland in a general election. The trend is good, but is obviously still a building project. This campaign will definitely set the base for next step," Bélanger said.

The new seats, most of them in Ontario, mean that Layton's record is intact.

This is the third campaign for Layton, 58, since he took over the leadership in 2003. In that time, he brought the NDP from 13 seats to the 30 seats the party had when parliament was dissolved Sept. 7.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dion fought uphill battle

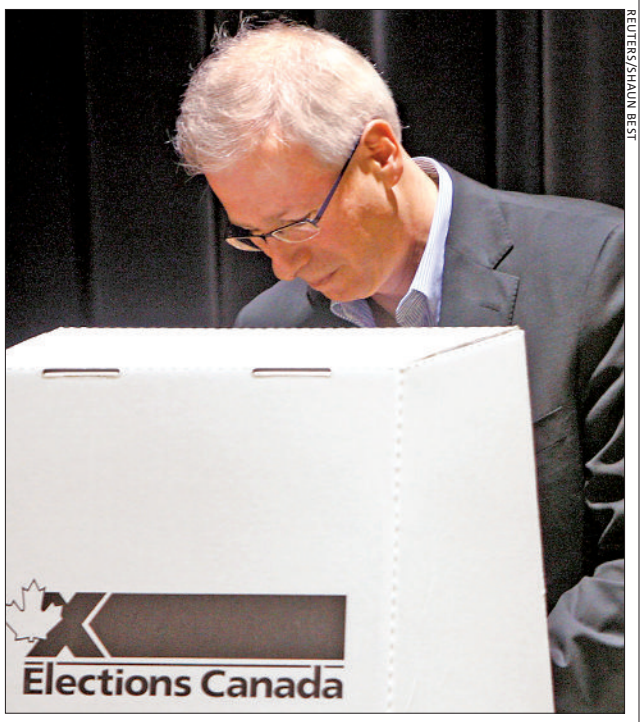
LIBERALS Stéphane Dion, 53, running a national election campaign as leader for the first time, spent most of the contest playing catch-up.

Despite 19 months at the helm of the Liberal party, he was still trying to cement a positive image with voters. Unpopular with many Quebecers because of his efforts during the Jean Chrétien years to rein in nationalist aspirations, and little known among English Canadians, the Liberal standard bearer was at a tremendous disadvantage against veteran campaigners like Harper and the NDP's Jack Layton.

He was hamstrung by divisions within his own party and, for more than a year, the Conservatives spent millions of dollars on advertising targeting Dion in an effort to make him appear weak, indecisive and nerdy.

Voters' cool attitude toward Dion was a problem at the door for the Liberals throughout the 37-day effort, candidates said privately. And he confided late in the campaign that the unprecedented barrage of negative personal advertising was more damaging than he had realized at first.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



REUTERS/SHAUN BEST

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion marks his ballot as he votes in his riding of Saint Laurent-Cartierville in Montreal, yesterday.

May fails in bid to oust Peter MacKay

NOVA SCOTIA Green Party leader Elizabeth May, a proponent of a Canadian carbon tax, fell short yesterday in her bid to become the environmental party's first elected member of Parliament, according to media projections.

May lost an attempt to unseat Conservative Defense Minister Peter MacKay in Nova Scotia, an effort by the Greens that was seen as a long shot despite an agreement by the Liberals not to field a candidate.

May, a bubbly political and environmental activist, said she expects to remain as a party leader despite not getting a seat. "It's not perfect, but it's not unheard of," she told CTV Television.

May made only one cross-country campaign trip — a whistle-stop tour using a regularly scheduled passenger train — and spent nearly all her time campaigning to win the seat in her home province of Nova Scotia.

REUTERS

Final poll numbers
Who was most accurate?

Angus Reid Strategies (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 37
Liberal — 27
NDP — 20
Bloc — 9
Green — 7

Harris-Decima (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 34
Liberal — 25
NDP — 19
Bloc — 11
Green — 9

Nik Nanos (Oct. 12)
Conservative — 34.2
Liberal — 26.7
NDP — 21.4
Bloc — 9.5
Green — 8.2

EKOS (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 34.8
Liberal — 26.4
NDP — 19.4
Bloc — 9.8
Green — 9.6

Strategic Counsel (Oct. 13)
Conservative — 33
Liberal — 28
NDP — 18
Green — 11
Bloc — 10

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

QUEBEC Tory Heritage Minister Josée Verner didn't vote Conservative yesterday. Verner voted in Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier, the one riding where the Tories did not run. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$290M

The estimated cost of this federal election is $290 million, according to Elections Canada. That puts the price tag at $837 million for the last three elections held in the last four years ($270 million — 2006; $277 million — 2004).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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The longest session of Parliament was five years, 10 months, 22 days. Canada's 12th Parliament ran from Nov. 15, 1911, to Oct. 6, 1917. The shortest session of Parliament was two months, six days. The 31st Parliament sat from Oct. 9, 1979, to Dec. 14, 1979. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Election 2008

Recap

Tories make big gains in Ontario

RETURNS Stephen Harper's Conservatives have broken a 15-year Liberal stranglehold on Ontario.

While early returns indicated the Tories did not win enough of Ontario's 106 seats to secure a majority government, party insiders were elated last night to best Stéphane Dion's Liberals in Canada's most populous province.

"Winning Ontario is a huge triumph for Stephen Harper," Conservative Environment Minister John Baird, the prime minister's Ontario point man, said last night.

"We need to focus like a laser on the economy. Ontario's future depends on it," Baird, re-elected in Ottawa West-Nepean, told the Toronto Star.

"The people of Ontario have given great support to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and we will work hard to honour that trust."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Women still seek equality

The only female party leader lost her bid for a seat last night, setting an early and troubling tone for those anxious to see more women elected to Parliament.

With results in many tight races still being tallied late last night it was difficult to know if there would be more or fewer women sitting in the House of Commons than the 64 who held seats when the election was called in September.

What was certain though — even before the campaign began — was that the number of women elected wouldn't come close to the number needed, said Raylene Lang-Dion, chair of Equal Voice, a non-partisan advocacy group dedicated to getting more female politicians elected.

Canadian women have been voting in federal elections for 90 years but still have not achieved equality in the results.

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Supporter Tara Veer waits for Conservative Leader Stephen Harper last night at his election headquarters in Calgary.

Women make up half the population but when Parliament dissolved women held just one-fifth of the seats.

Given the difficulty in making big inroads in overall numbers, it was especially disappointing to see Green Leader Elizabeth May — the highest-profile woman candidate in this election — go down in defeat in Nova Scotia, losing to Defence Minister Peter MacKay, she said.

"It would have been good to see a female leader in the House of Commons," Lang-Dion said.

"I'm a big believer in what you're shown. If young people only see male provincial leaders, if they only see male federal leaders, half of the equation is missing," Lang-Dion added.

The United Nations says that for a critical mass to be achieved — where female politicians are heard and heeded — at least 30 per cent of the seats must be held by women.

The battle at the polls for women may be over for now, but for Lang-Dion there is one more fight to wage: Cabinet posts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

West

Expected wins for Conservatives

BATTLEGROUND Conservatives won the West by dominating in Alberta and Saskatchewan as expected, and the NDP made gains at the Liberals' expense in Manitoba and British Columbia.

B.C. was the biggest western question mark, with three-way races in ridings so tight that both Stéphane Dion and Stephen Harper made last-minute pitches in the province on their final day of the campaign.

With 36 of the 92 western seats on offer, battleground British Columbia could have given the Conservatives a majority. But while the Tories made gains, they weren't enough.

The Conservatives were leading in 24 ridings, the NDP with five and the Liberals with two in early polling results an hour after polling stations closed.

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4. Eligible Accounts will continue to earn regular interest on balances, calculated daily and paid monthly. With the no fee bank account you earn a higher regular rate on higher balances, and with the Interest Plus Savings Account you earn a higher regular rate on balances over $1,000 as well as bonus anniversary interest.
5. The Promotional Interest will be paid in December 2008 to the primary account holder's Eligible Account. If a primary account holder holds more than one Eligible Account, at least one of the Eligible Accounts must remain active and in good standing as at November 30, 2008 so that Promotional Interest for all Eligible Accounts held by that account holder may be credited to that account holder's Eligible Account. If a primary account holder holds more than one Eligible Account, the Promotional Interest for each Eligible Account will be aggregated and paid to one Eligible Account in the following sequence:
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   c. To the primary account holder's no fee bank account, if it is active and in good standing.
6. Promotional Interest will not be earned on any Additional Balances on a primary account holder's Eligible Account(s) in excess of $1,000,000 in the aggregate during the Offer Period. The provider of President's Choice Financial personal banking services (the direct banking division of CIBC), reserves the right to change the terms of the Offer at anytime, and revoke the Offer for any customer who appears to be manipulating or abusing the Offer, or is engaged in any suspicious/fraudulent activity.
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Did you know?

The oldest Canadian prime minister to take office was Charles Tupper, who was 74 years, 10 months old, when he became PM on May 1, 1896. Canada's youngest prime minister was Joe Clark, who took office at the age of 39 years, 11 months, on June 4, 1979. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

Conservatives blanked in Newfoundland, Labrador

Conservatives were shut out of Newfoundland and Labrador, where Premier Danny Williams ran an anti-Tory campaign stemming from a bitter feud over control of offshore energy revenues.

The Conservatives lost all three of their seats in the province, including Avalon, where incumbent Fabian Manning lost to Liberal candidate Scott Andrews.

The other two Conservative incumbents in the seven-seat province — Norman Doyle and Loyola Hearn — did not run again and the NDP and Liberals took their respective seats.

The news was better for the Conservatives elsewhere in the Atlantic provinces, where they picked up four seats from the Liberals.

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Cherry-flavoured malaria pill goes down easier with kids
A new, cherry-flavoured anti-malaria pill works as well as current treatments, is easy for children to swallow and could save lives, researchers reported. The tablet is not as bitter as current drugs and does not need to be crushed before eating, making it easier for children to take. REUTERS

World

Surgery patients untested

Americans on Medicare who get elective surgery to open blocked heart arteries often do not get the recommended stress tests to confirm the surgery is warranted, researchers said yesterday. The surgery costs the U.S. $10,000 to $15,000 per procedure and has contributed significantly to increases in Medicare spending since the mid-1990s. REUTERS

McCain offers investors aid

In an effort to revive his campaign, Republican presidential nominee John McCain offered proposals yesterday to help investors rebound from the market crash while Democrat Barack Obama prepared for the candidates' final debate today.

"What we need to see now is swift and bold action to lead this country in a new direction," McCain told cheering supporters in the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

In the Philadelphia suburb of Blue Bell, McCain outlined an estimated $52.5 billion in new proposals. Many of them are aimed at helping older Americans who have seen their retirement accounts hit in recent stock market gyrations.

McCain also proposed relief for Americans counting on investment income to send children to college or pay the mortgage.

McCain has sought to regain his footing on economic issues after drawing criticism for saying the U.S. economy's fundamentals were strong, despite brewing signs of crisis on Wall Street that gave way to a massive stock market drop.

In bad news for the McCain campaign, a poll yesterday gave Obama leads in four battleground states. He was up 52 per cent to McCain's 43 per cent in Colorado, 54-38 in Michigan, 51-40 in Minnesota and 54-37 in Wisconsin. REUTERS

Debate prep

- Obama shook hands with workers at an Ohio factory, then holed up at a resort on Lake Erie to prepare.
- McCain rehearsed for the debate in a closed-door session at a stage complex in Manhattan.

Markets slip as U.S. unveils bank share plan

FINANCE The United States ushered in a new era in banking yesterday with plans to take equity stakes totalling up to $250 billion in financial institutions, an incursion into the private sector that U.S. officials called a regrettable last resort.

Markets initially rallied on the rescue plan, but recession fears soon took over and Wall Street stocks closed lower.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said government ownership of big stakes in banks was "objectionable" but necessary to head off the financial crisis.

Governments around the world have pledged roughly $3.2 trillion in a variety of schemes that guarantee bank deposits, interbank lending and the purchase of new securities to shore up bank capital.

The U.S. Treasury will buy nonvoting preferred shares in major financial institutions, with stakes in each limited to $25 billion. Bank executives must accept standards of corporate governance and limits on their pay.

Paulson said nine banks that he described as "healthy institutions" had agreed to accept government stakes for the good of the U.S. economy — a government intervention unthinkable before the credit crisis, the worst since the 1930s Great Depression. REUTERS

More Thai troops bound for border with Cambodia

TENSION Thailand sent more soldiers to a disputed stretch of the Cambodian border yesterday, a Thai general said, hours after a Cambodian general said Thai troops had pulled back.

Eastern Region Commander Vibulsak Neepan said troops from both sides had retreated slightly but were facing off about 100 metres apart and Bangkok was sending in reinforcements.

"The situation is quite tense at the front line," Lieutenant-General Vibulsak said. "We have mobilized more troops and heavy artillery to the area, just enough to resist and retaliate."

His comments came shortly after Cambodian commander General Chea Mon said by telephone from the border that nearly 100 Thai soldiers alleged to have made an incursion onto Cambodian soil had retreated. REUTERS

Los Angeles **Watching and waiting**

REUTERS/PHIL MCCARTEN

Residents Eric Francisco and wife Shirley Francisco watch a news broadcast of the Los Angeles fires with other evacuees yesterday. Firefighters made gains yesterday as winds stoking the flames diminished. At least 3,000 people remain evacuated.

Afghan insurgency spreading: UN envoy

MILITANTS The insurgency in Afghanistan has spread beyond Taliban strongholds in the south and east while attacks in the country have reached a six-year high, a top UN envoy said yesterday.

Violence in Afghanistan this year is worse than at any time since U.S.-led and Afghan forces toppled the militant Islamist Taliban, and fears are growing among NATO members that they are losing both the military campaign and the support of Afghans.

"In July and August we witnessed the highest number of security incidents since 2002," UN special envoy to Afghanistan Kai Eide told the UN Security Council. The rise over the same period in 2007 was nearly 40 per cent, he said.

Eide said the insurgency has extended to provinces around Kabul. There has also been an increase in attacks on civilians, including humanitarian personnel, he said. REUTERS

Civilian deaths

- Last week the U.S. said 33 Afghan civilians had been killed in a U.S. air raid in August, up from an estimate of five to seven. The incident strained with Kabul and the United Nations.

News in brief

FRANCE The head of the company commercializing Tasers in France was placed in custody on suspicion of mounting illegal surveillance of a popular politician and Taser critic. Nine others, were placed in custody on suspicion of spying on Olivier Besancenot, spokes-man of the Communist Revolutionary League.

STORM Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands were put under a hurricane watch yesterday as Tropical Storm Omar strengthened. The storm's winds grew to over 110 kms per hour. REUTERS

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Bloomberg hires NBC vet to run TV, online ops
News and financial data provider Bloomberg LP hired veteran television news executive Andrew Lack to run its expanding television, interactive and radio operations. He takes over from Matt Winkler, who will remain chief of the news group. REUTERS

Business

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Business in brief

ONLINE EBay is planning a three- to five-year expansion of its U.S. web classifieds unit through Kijiji and acquisitions as its online auctions slow, but experts say it's unlikely it will overtake rival Craigslist, the dominant player in the U.S.

INSURANCE Concerns about the capital position at Manulife Financial Corp. are overblown, and Canada's largest insurer is not looking at issuing common shares or cutting its dividend, its chief executive said yesterday in a press release. REUTERS

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TSX gives thanks with record rally

Toronto's premier stock index staged a massive rebound yesterday, surging nearly 900 points as investors cheered plans by U.S. and European governments to collectively invest about $2.5 trillion US of taxpayer money into beaten-down bank stocks with an eye to preventing a global recession.

The S&P/TSX composite index — which was closed for the Thanksgiving Day holiday — was quick to play "catch up" to Monday's colossal rally in global markets, surging in early trading by as much as 18 per cent and recording its biggest-ever intraday spike. It later gave back a huge swath of that gain, closing up 9.82 per cent, or 890.5 points, at 9,955.66. Nonetheless, it was the steepest percentage advance on record for the index.

"Clearly the Canadian market is catching up to what the rest of the world did (Monday) in terms of responding favourably to the various plans that governments put in place," said Kate Warne, a Canadian market strategist with brokerage Edward Jones in St. Louis, Mo.

For its part, the TSX remains firmly in bear market territory, down nearly 34 per cent from its record high set June 18.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Daimler to close Ontario plant in 2009

CLOSURE Daimler AG will close two plants, in St. Thomas, Ont., and Portland, Ore., to address a deep North American market slump that shows no signs of easing, the world's biggest truckmaker said yesterday.

It said the move to chop its capacity by 20 per cent would improve annual earnings by $900 million US by 2011.

The Ontario facility will close in March; the Oregon facility in June 2010. Around 2,300 workers will lose their jobs. REUTERS

GM-Chrysler deal worries auto unions

AUTOS Labour unions in the United States and Canada yesterday expressed concern about the prospect of job losses from any merger between General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, adding that union leaders had not been consulted by the automakers.

A merger between the two would almost certainly prompt job cuts, plant shutdowns, and the elimination of models and dealerships, with little immediate cost-cutting benefits, analysts said. REUTERS

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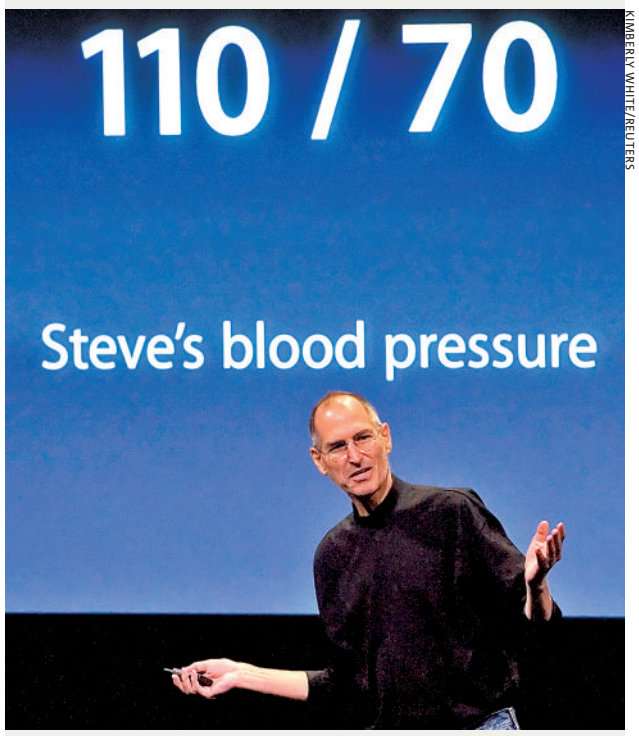

KIMBERLY WHITE/REUTERS

Steve Jobs, Apple Inc.'s chief executive officer, makes a joke about his blood pressure after introducing the latest line of MacBook notebooks — with all-metal design, 3-D graphics and LED backlit displays at prices up to $700 US less than before — yesterday at a press conference in Cupertino, Calif.

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Madden breaks his consecutive commentary streak
John Madden, who has called an NFL football game in 476 consecutive weeks, will take this Sunday off to spend more time with his family. The 72-year-old, who travels by bus because of a fear of flying, would have had to travel to Tampa from San Diego, where the Chargers defeated the Patriots Sunday night. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Pacman suspended indefinitely

Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam (Pacman) Jones has been suspended indefinitely without pay by the NFL for an alcohol-related altercation with a personal security guard at a Dallas hotel last week. Jones will be suspended at least four games for violating his reinstatement arrangement, which expected the 25-year-old to refrain from any behavior that puts him, his team or the league in a negative light.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Jagr-less N.Y. in charge

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

They no longer have Jaromir Jagr, but they have, um, Aaron Voros — and the New York Rangers are on fire.

And if they defeat the Buffalo Sabres tomorrow night, the Rangers will catapult to 6-0, which would be the best start in their long history.

"We honestly didn't expect to come out of the gate like this," goaltender Henrik Lundqvist confessed.

"But we're realizing we have something special. We're exceeding expectations because our players have some surprising skills."

Among them is Voros, a 27-year-old Vancouver native initially chosen 229th overall in the 2001 NHL. He couldn't reach the NHL until last season, when he had a cup of coffee with Minnesota.

On Monday, in the Rangers' 4-1 triumph over the New Jersey Devils, Voros stood out with two goals and an assist, pushing his points total to seven. He produced only 14 points in 55 games with the Wild last season.

Jaromir Jagr

"When we scouted him, we saw a greasy player who would work hard and go to the difficult areas to score goals," Rangers coach Tom Renney said of Voros, whom the Rangers signed as a free agent this past summer. "We got him for a reason, and he's doing exactly what we figured he'd do."

Jagr, meanwhile, is playing for Avangard Omsk in the Kontinental Hockey League, and, privately, the Rangers are whispering they're better off without the future Hall of Famer and his mood swings.

• It's very early in the NHL season, but sources tell us:

Mike Keenan will be toast as Calgary coach if the Flames don't get hot soon.

Luke Schenn is poised as an 18-year-old defenceman for the Toronto Maple Leafs but relies too heavily on his wrist shots and has yet to fire a slap shot in three games.

The Chicago Blackhawks are souring on goaltender Cristobal Huet and will start alternating him with Nikolai Khabibulin.

• Now that Paul Beeston has rejoined the Blue Jays as interim president, don't be surprised if his ex-partner, Pat Gillick, isn't far behind...The Yanks also covet Gillick, who's in his final days as the Philadelphia Phillies' general manager. . I keep hearing J.P. Ricciardi's days as the Jays' GM are numbered, regardless...A whole bunch of players given away by the Jays in minor trades over the years are starring in the league championship series, including the Los Angeles Dodgers' Casey Blake and the Philadelphia Phillies' Matt Stairs and Jayson Werth.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Stairs enjoying himself

• Former Blue Jay Matt Stairs, who hit a dramatic, game-winning, pinch-hit home run in the Philadelphia Phillies' triumph over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL championship series Monday night, is anything but traditional when it comes to his hitting philosophy. While virtually every other major-leaguer claims they step to the plate with the objective of making good contact, Stairs openly admits he aims for homers. "I try to hit the ball out of the park," he said. "I'm not going to lie. It's fun."

Rays relentless in ALCS

MLB RECAP

Tamps Bay 13 Boston 4

BASEBALL Evan Longoria and the Tampa Bay Rays blew out the Boston Red Sox for the second straight game to take a commanding 3-1 series lead in the ALCS.

Longoria hit his rookie-record fifth home run of the playoffs to lead the Rays on a relentless rout of aging knuckleball pitcher Tim Wakefield.

Wakefield was victimized by Longoria, Carlos Pena and Willie Aybar for homers before being chased early in the third inning.

The defending World Series champions will face elimination on Thursday as the series shifts back to Tampa for the fifth game.
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NHL HIGHLIGHTS

Calgary 5 | Colorado 4

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THE SKINNY: Although they squandered leads of 2-0 and 3-1, the Calgary Flames eked out a 5-4 win over the visiting Colorado Avalanche in a battle of winless teams.

THE QUOTE: "With Jarome and how he skates and how he shoots, there's going to be some juicy rebounds around," said first star Bertuzzi, who swatted an Iginla rebound into the Colorado net for the game winner.

POOLIE UPDATE: Todd Bertuzzi scored twice, including the game winner, while Jarome Iginla had a goal and an assist for his first points of the season.

POWER SURGE: After going 0-for-13 with the man advantage in their first two games, Dustin Boyd and Bertuzzi counted power-play goals in the opening frame before Iginla scored with Avs blueliner Adam Foote in the sin bin in the third.

DAVID MOLL/REUTERS

Calgary Flames David Moss looks to deflect a shot as he interferes with Colorado Avalanche goaltender Peter Budaj during the second period of their game in Calgary last night.

SAVE OF THE GAME: With Joe Sakic parked on his doorstep in the third period, Miikka Kiprusoff made a great blocker save to thwart him.

THE GAFFES: Peter Budaj attempted to glove an airborne puck and instead threw it right onto Bertuzzi's stick who quickly deposited it behind the Colorado netminder in the first.

THE NEXT GAME: The Flames have until Friday night until the Battle of Alberta flares up once again when the hated Edmonton Oilers visit the 'Dome (7 p.m., Sportsnet)

Russia mourns hockey prospect

HOCKEY Russia mourned one of its most promising young athletes yesterday after the death of 19-year-old Vanguard Omsk forward Alexei Cherepanov who collapsed during a match. On the same day, a Russian investigator suggested that Cherepanov was having heart problems. A claim, his agent denies. REUTERS

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x-Tampa Bay at Boston, 6:07
SATURDAY, OCT. 18
x-Boston at Tampa Bay, 2:37
(Tampa leads series 2-1)
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia vs. L.A. Dodgers
TONIGHT, OCT. 15
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 6:22
FRIDAY, OCT. 17
x-L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:22
(Phillies lead series 3-1)
x — only played if necessary.

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 7
Minnesota at Atlanta, 7
Colorado at Calgary, 9
Anaheim at L.A. 10:30
Columbus at San Jose, 10:30

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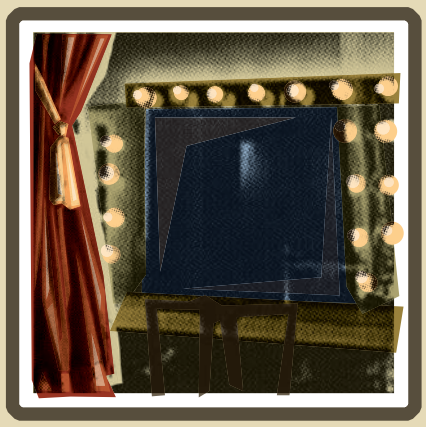

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Automotive

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Mazda power

Mazda's success in lifting the 6 (or Atenza in other markets) to global acclaim — out of the 626's boring mould — was no small feat.

For North America, Mazda poked and prodded the 6 to nearly become the largest car in its class. One body style is offered, a sedan, fitted with your choice of either a powerful 170-hp 2.5L four-cylinder engine or a really powerful 272-hp 3.7L six-cylinder engine. That motor is wrapped in a four-door shell, modern and swoopy, helped along by even the smallest wheel size being 17-inch alloys.

In Asia, Europe and the Middle East, the 6 is offered in three body styles like the outgoing model: Sedan; five-door hatchback; or wagon. It's offered with a range of engines, including diesels. And size-wise, it's nearly identical to the outgoing car while "our" 6 is more than seven inches longer than "their" 6. Ours is also slightly larger in all other measurements, including weight.

Inside, the 6 is a mix of current Mazda themes — pronounced centre stack, multiple red displays and a sporty instrument binnacle. Kudos to Mazda for keeping the two trim levels similar in interior appearance, with the base car feeling upscale — without making the top trim cars appear too cheap. Cubbyholes are everywhere, but perhaps not as many as in an Accord.

The car is offered in two trim grades, GS and GT. And listen closely because it gets murky: Each trim level is available with either the four-cylinder or six-cylinder engine. On four-cylinder models, the standard transmission is a six-speed manual, with a five-speed automatic optional. On V6 models, a six-speed automatic is the only transmission available.

The four-cylinder GS starts at $22,495. You want standard features? Seventeen-inch wheels, anti-lock brakes (ABS) with electronic brake force distribution, traction control, front and side airbags as well as side-curtain air bags, height-adjustable rear headrests, anti-theft alarm system, and engine-immobilizer are included, as are power windows, tilt and telescopic steering wheel, AM/FM/CD/MP3/AUX-IN stereo with six speakers, air conditioning, 60/40 split-fold rear seat. Both a five-speed automatic transmission with Sport mode (four-cylinder models) and satellite navigation system are available as standalone options.

With the four- or six-cylinder motor, the only package available on the GS is labelled "Comfort" — included are: Dynamic stability control, eight-way power driver's seat, sunroof, leather-wrapped steering wheel, shift knob and parking brake handle, and rain-sensing wipers.

The GT trim is basically the GS with the Comfort package plus a few goodies.

CARGUIDE STAFF/FOR METRO CANADA

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Das Auto.

*MSRP of $23,310/$28,310 for new 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible base model with 5-speed manual transmission. MSRP of New Beetle as shown is $24,970 with Mali accessory wheels and front fog lights. MSRP of New Beetle Convertible as shown is $29,785 with 16" alloy wheels, semi-automatic convertible roof and front fog lights. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer charges, options, and applicable taxes extra. **Limited time lease offer on approved credit available through Volkswagen Finance, a division of VW Credit Canada Inc., applies to new and in stock 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible models, $1,335 freight and PDI included. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer charges, options, and applicable taxes extra. For new 2008 base model New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible with 5-speed manual transmission, monthly payment is $281/$335 based on 2.9% lease APR for 48 months with $0 down payment for a total lease obligation of $13,488/$16,080. First monthly payment free up to a maximum of $400 for new and in stock 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible, taxes included – no cash value applied to the lease. $0 security deposit offered on new and in stock 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible models leased through Volkswagen Finance. $0.12/km over 80,000 kilometres charged at lease end. Dealer may sell/lease for less. At participating Volkswagen dealerships only. Offer valid until October 31, 2008 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Supplies limited. See dealer or visit vw.ca for details. "New Beetle" is a trademark of Volkswagen AG. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "New Beetle" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2008 Volkswagen Canada.

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California bound

The California Travel and Tourism Commission says that in 2007, a record number of Canadian travellers visited the state — 1,148,000, marking an 11 per cent increase from 2006. CTTC has worked aggressively in the last few years to target Canadian visitors. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Travel

Happy 800th

The University of Cambridge is one of the oldest in the world. In 2009 it celebrates 800 years as a seat of learning with a year-long programme of events in the city, across the UK and around the world. Celebrations start on Jan. 17 when churches in the city will ring their bells for the anniversary year. **VISITBRITAIN.COM**

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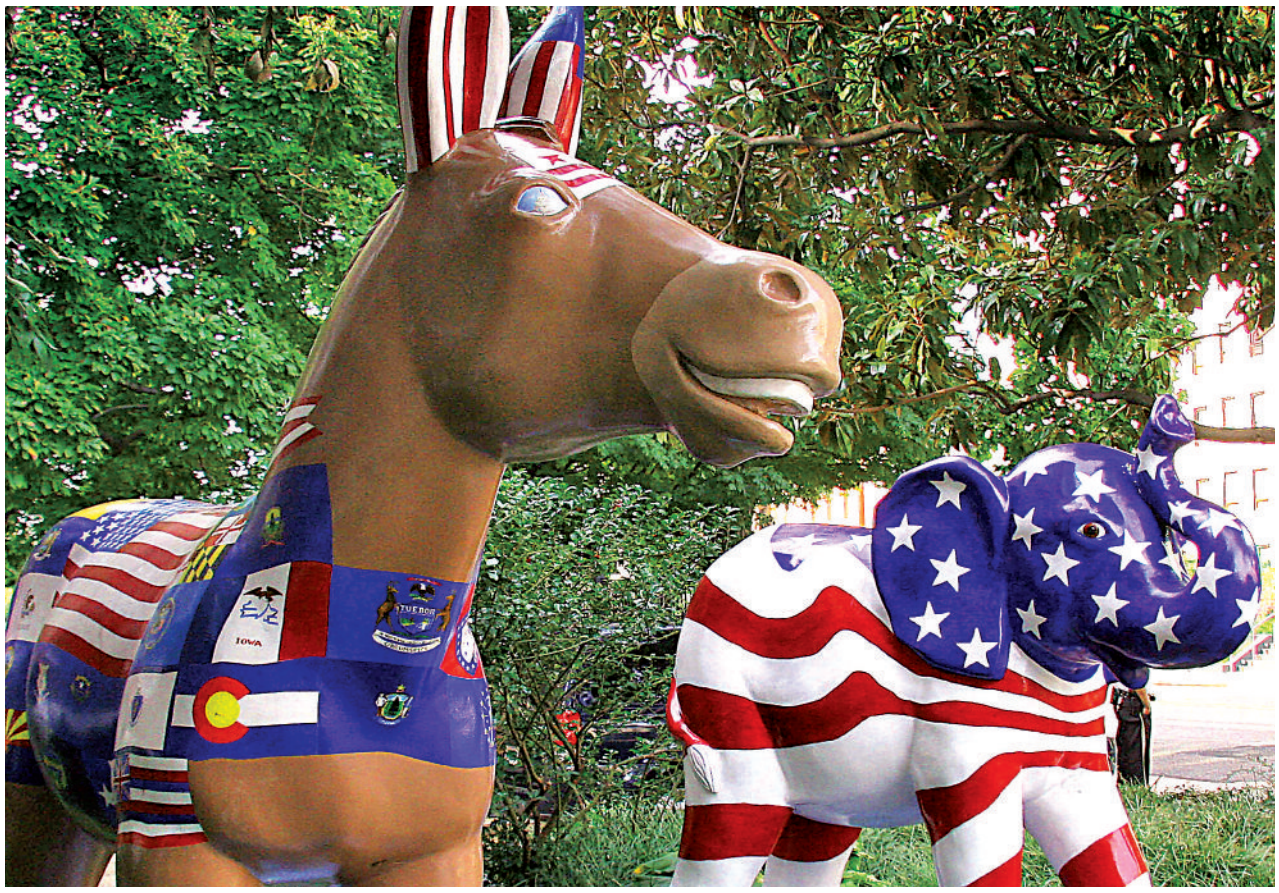
EMMA E. FORREST/METRO WORLD NEWS

Bi-Partisan's two-tone electric cars are a perfect way for political fence-sitters to tour the capital.



KAREN BLEIER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The symbols of the Democratic (donkey) and Republican (elephant) parties are seen on display in Washington, D.C. in this file photo.

Feel Washington's election buzz

U.S. capital pulses with excitement during presidential race

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Washington, D.C. is an exciting city to be in right now, especially with a presidential race taking place. The city is easy to navigate, has plenty to discover and is a great place to feel the election buzz first-hand this fall.

Sightseeing at the Mall

Before you get under the skin of the city, orient yourself with the Bi-Partisan tour, a wacky expedition in a two-tone electric car. You'll whizz past the majestic monuments of the Mall in this quirky automobile while your guide entertains you with the history of the city.

If you want to show your political allegiance, toot your horn — there's a braying donkey for the Democrats, and a trumpeting elephant for the Republicans (bi-partisantourcompany.com).

Sights to explore on foot include the U.S. Supreme Court (supremecourt-us.gov), the National Archives (nationalarchives.gov), Library of Congress (loc.gov), Union Station (unionstationdc.com) and the International Spy Museum (spymuseum.org).

For an alternative twist on U.S. history, recap on the major events of the last hundred years as seen through the media at Newseum, an engaging museum dedicated to all things media, with a gallery of Pulitzer Prize photographs, a moving space dedicated to 9/11 and the opportunity to film yourself presenting the news (newseum.org).

Power lunching

Museums might be a must, but there are reminders of D.C.'s political past and present all over town. Get into the election spirit and go for a power lunch — movers and shakers do their deals over fancy meals.

Close to Capitol Hill, the George is the city's first boutique hotel. Washington's elite come here for functions or to dine alongside other local and foreign dignitaries in the upmarket bistro Bis.

Keep an eye out for political celebrities, including Barack Obama and the Clintons, as well as Hollywood stars from Sean Penn to Kevin Bacon who stay there when they're in town to support their favourite causes (hotelgeorge.com).

At the Renaissance Mayflower hotel, D.C.'s political scenesters rub shoulders in the Town and Country Bar. The largest luxury hotel in the city, this is the site of most U.S. presidents' inaugural balls and J. Edgar Hoover's favourite lunchtime restaurant.

Earlier this year, disgraced former New York governor Eliot Spitzer chose to have his tryst with a call girl in room 871 (marriott.com).

For something a little more discreet, there's always breakfast at the Four Seasons over in Georgetown and away from the heart of the action. Even if you're not meeting up with a senator, it's worth visiting for the breakfast alone, in particular the crab cake Benedict, a mountain of juicy Chesapeake crab dressed with tangy tomato hollandaise (fourseasons.com/washington).

Political cocktails

If dining in fancy restaurants is not your thing, then there are plenty of more affordable ways of registering your vote.

Bars across the city have conceived party-inspired cocktails, so you can show your support for either Obama or John McCain by picking a red or blue martini at the bar.

Younger lobbyists mingle in the bars and restaurants in the Adams-Morgan and U Street neighbourhoods. Politicos meet up for beer and chicken wings at Stetsons, a crowded Tex-Mex dive bar, or smarten up for dinner at hip, minimalist restaurant Leftbank on 18th Street (leftbankdc.com).

Further down the street is a reminder of the civil rights battles fought in the city, Ben's Chili Bowl. Currently celebrating its 50th year, this hot dog restaurant and D.C. institution is the only establishment to have survived the 1968 riots and resulting degeneration and regeneration of the area.

TV star Bill Cosby is a fan of their signature dish, the Chili Half-Smoke, a pork-and-beef smoked hot dog with mustard, onions and chilli sauce (benschilibowl.com).

For a romantic alternative, have a late supper at the old-fashioned Georgetown diner Martin's Tavern, where JFK proposed to journalist Jacqueline Bouvier in one of its booths (martins-tavern.com).

Inauguration packages

If you're planning to be in town for the inauguration, be sure to reserve your room quickly.

Most hotels are offering a minimum five-night package, and most of those have already been snapped up by U.S. society's finest, who will attend the week of prestigious inaugural balls.

Luxury hotels are pulling out all the stops, from the George, which will have its own hair stylists and beauticians on hand, to the Four Seasons, which is undergoing a revamp for the occasion with six new presidential suites, including one with bulletproof windows for VIP guests.

Washington, D.C. 101

- Where to stay: The Donovan Hotel, Washington D.C.'s newest boutique hotel with stylish minimalist rooms and a rooftop pool overlooking the sights of D.C. Room rates from $189 (thompsonhotels.com).
- When to go: Cold in winter and hot and humid in summer, D.C. is good all year round. For cheaper rates in hotels and restaurants, visit in August, when the Senate is not in session and Restaurant Week takes place, with upmarket eateries offering cheap menus.

Las Vegas in London
The Casino at the Empire has just laid claim to being London's largest casino. Whether you fancy a go at the cards, a lavish meal or a boogie on the dance floor, there's enough excitement to keep you entertained all night; see *thecasinolsq.com*. METRO WORLD NEWS

Bringing home a most unwelcome souvenir

Bot Fly is one tropical oddity that can grow on you

The Travel Junkie

If you're squeamish, stop reading! This is a disgusting travel tale that reads more like a sci-fi flick than it does a real life occurrence.

Two weeks ago, I was in the western part of Belize taking part in a jungle survival course for a story. As I hacked through dense vines, my guide listed potential dangers: Venomous Fer-De-Lance snakes, carnivorous jaguars, hot-tempered fire ants and the little-known Bot Fly.

"Though Mom doesn't have medical expertise, she's good at tweezing her eyebrows, so we sterilized her pluckers and prepared for surgery."

Found in Central America, a Bot Fly looks much like a house fly, only bigger and hairier. It breeds by attaching its eggs to a mosquito. When the mosquito bites its victim the Bot Fly larvae burrows into the host's skin and grows into a plump, white worm.

Since I'd worn long pants, dressed in light-coloured clothing and doused myself in DEET I figured I was protected. But I left the jungle with itchy red mosquito bites and lingering questions. My paranoia grew, as did a mysterious red pimple on my butt. Along with the occasional burst of pus, there was a stinging sensation. People thought I was crazy, but I was convinced — I had Bot Fly.

Having never heard of Bot Fly, my Canadian doctor concluded it was an infected mosquito bite and wrote a prescription. The diagnosis led me to Dr. Mom. A travel writer herself, Mom is familiar with tropical oddities. Though she doesn't have medical expertise, she's good at tweezing her eyebrows, so we sterilized her pluckers and prepared for surgery. "I see something white," she said, looking at the wound. "Is it pus?" I stammered. "What is it?"

I looked up and found she had extracted a little white worm. The larvae was the size of a fingernail, a spiral of black hairs along his body. We stared, astounded.

My stomach went queasy. I felt a combination of relief, disgust and I-told-you-so bravado. Sick! I'd just delivered my very own Bot Fly, a most unusual souvenir.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Lonely Planet publishes definitive guide on what to do and where to go in 2009

TRAVEL GUIDES Visit a 'Stan. Sail somewhere. Journey through the Basque country or Tasmania's Bay of Fires. Eschew art museums for temporary exhibits.

The travel gurus at Lonely Planet have come up with what they say is the definitive list of what to do and where to go in 2009, and in a condensed format for today's time-strapped travellers.

The Best in Travel 2009, published this month, is a compilation of lists of 850 destinations, journeys and experiences recommended by the guide book publishers. And the longest entry is two pages long.

As well as lists such as Most Spine-Tingling Commutes and Best Places for Deadly Sins, the guide book includes the top 10 countries and top 10 regions travellers must visit next year. There is also a month-by-month trip planner, as well as country profiles and statistics.

Unlike more in-depth guides, there are no restaurant or hotel recommendations.

PASCAL PARROT/GETTY IMAGES

This file photo shows pedestrians in downtown Algiers. On Lonely Planet's list of countries to visit in 2009, Algeria is No. 1.

Tony Wheeler, Lonely Planet's co-founder, introduces the book with his own list, which includes visiting a country whose name ends in "-stan," such as Afghanistan or Kyrgyzstan, finding a trip that involves sailing, such as a transatlantic cruise, staying for a long time in one place to soak up the atmosphere, or going on a long trip, such as a trek across the Sahara. REUTERS

Top destinations

- Here are Lonely Planet's top countries to visit in 2009:

1. Algeria
2. Bangladesh
3. Canada
4. Georgia
5. Greenland
6. Kyrgyzstan
7. Oman
8. Peru
9. Rwanda
10. Sierra Leone

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Veronica Mars creator getting Down

Veronica Mars creator Rob Thomas will soon be whetting TV appetites weekly with his new comedy, Party Down. The program, to be produced for Starz Media, will focus on six Hollywood wannabes who work together at a catering company. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Entertainment

Miley's story

Singer/actress Miley Cyrus has finished writing a book about her life at the age of 15. The star was reportedly paid a seven-figure sum to tell her "inspiring story." BBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Passchendaele brings our war to big screen

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

Canada produces a fraction of the films that come out of Hollywood, a number that dwindles into insignificance when you count other moviemaking giants such as India and China.

Tiny budgets have ensured that genres such as epics and adventure films are nonexistent, so it's not surprising that we've only produced two war films in 25 years, the newest of which — Paul Gross' Passchendaele — is being released this Friday.

Like its predecessor, Robin Phillips' 1983 The Wars, it's set during the First World War, and the pair may constitute the whole of the country's catalogue of fictional war films.

The fact isn't surprising — movie production in this country is as much a bureaucratic as a cultural undertaking, and the 1914-1918 war looms large in our cherished national myths. The mere existence of a film like Passchendaele is a contribution to that longstanding project of buffing up our history.

With such little practice, however, it's not surprising that Passchendaele is more familiar than groundbreaking. The brutal truth is that most films about the First World War still play out like remakes of Lewis Milestone's Oscar-winning All Quiet On The Western Front.

Much as the war left an indelible mark on Canada, it established its imagery worldwide with nightmarish vividness early on, and every First World War movie ends up recreating the scenes that Milestone filmed when the generation that witnessed it in person hadn't even reached middle age — the endless trenches bracketing a deadly sea of mud and barbed wire, filled with the bodies of men who had learned firsthand about the absurdity of politics and the futility of life, a cultural mood that would still be a vital force well past the point when the next world war began.

Laying down the law

Height differences add to chemistry on set of Billable Hours

HEATHER SETKA
for Metro Calgary

Fab Filippo is annoyed — or at least he's pretending to be.

Filippo, who plays young lawyer Sam Caponelli in the Showcase comedy Billable Hours, and his co-star Brandon Firla are in Calgary to promote their upcoming third season.

Rare-variety born-and-raised Calgarian Firla is a hometown hero, and he's getting all the press. Before he "ran away" to Toronto at 19, Firla acted in Winston Churchill high school theatre productions and then studied drama at the University of Calgary. That's why all the local reporters who've interviewed the two men today want to talk to him, not Filippo.

"I'm not liking that, I'm not liking that at all," Filippo says, narrowing his eyes at Firla. "I can't wait until we get back to Toronto, where I dwarf him."

Filippo and Firla laugh. This joke calls attention to their extreme height difference. Thirty-two-year-old Firla is well over six feet tall, and Filippo is, well, much shorter.

"When he walked in (to the auditions), I thought, 'I hope this guy's not good, because I'm going to look like a midget,'" Filippo says.

But Filippo confesses he knew right away Firla was the right actor to fill the somewhat evil shoes of Billable Hours' Clark Claxton III. "It was one of those moments where it was just obvious," Filippo says.

CANWEST/SHOWCASE PHOTO

The third season of the hit legal comedy Billable Hours, starring Calgarian Brandon Firla, left, Fabrizio Filippo and Jennifer Baxter, airs tonight on Showcase at 9 p.m.

Firla and Filippo's mismatched size only adds to their chemistry on the show, which starts today at 9 p.m. on Showcase. And it's obvious speaking to them in person this chemistry is not forced.

"We seem to play off each other really well," Filippo says. "It's a spirit of generosity."

As for their characters, they're as different in personality as they are in appearance. Filippo says he fashioned Sam after cartoon character Pepe Le Pew because he "never thinks the stink is him."

Clark is "deeply flawed, unhappy and nasty," Firla says. "He's more fun to play (than other characters)."

Like Clark, much of Billable Hours' comedy is dark in nature. The show centres around three young corporate lawyers (Jennifer Baxter plays Robin Howland) who spend more time shuffling papers than they do in court. To combat this drudgery, Sam and Clark invent ways to amuse themselves, often at other people's expense.

Both Firla and Filippo say they're glad to have escaped a similar fate in office jobs, but it's not the driving force behind either man's passion for acting.

"You kind of have to be compelled (to act). You have to need it," Firla says. "It kind of chooses you."

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Bill Gates tops responsibility poll

PEOPLE Bill Gates topped the business category and Oprah Winfrey and Angelina Jolie scored high marks, but many Americans said they had difficulty naming a responsible leader or celebrity, a poll suggests.

Most of the 1,001 questioned said they valued responsibility, but they just didn't see enough of it in other people. "The index shows that people want more responsibility in their lives, but they're not always certain how to achieve that goal," said Kathy McManus, of Liberty Mutual Group, a global insurance company that conducted the poll. **REUTERS**

Garth thrilled Priestley directing

90210 Jennie Garth is thrilled her original Beverly Hills, 90210 co-star Jason Priestley will be directing an upcoming episode of the spinoff 90210, us-magazine.com reports.

"I'm happy that he's there. Jason directed a couple of episodes of the original show, and he was great," she told Us-magazine.com. "He's a hoot, so it'll be fun!"

Will Luke Perry be returning?

"He didn't mention coming back at all," she said. "I don't know if that's going to happen, but I would love it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pam criticizes model
Pamela Anderson, right, has blasted model Katie Price for her parenting skills. "She shows off her kids all the time in TV shows — that's beyond low," Anderson reportedly told New! Magazine. THE DAILY MIRROR

Bjork to Yorke or not to Yorke?

MUSIC Vocalist Bjork will release a new single featuring backing vocals from Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke on Oct. 20, according to her camp.

The only problem: according to Radiohead's management, Yorke hasn't recorded anything new with Bjork, although the possibility remains that his contribution to the single, Nattura, is a sample or was taped at some point in the past. No additional information about the nature of the collaboration was available about the single, which shares its name with an organization devoted to protecting Iceland's environment. Bjork played a benefit concert with fellow Iceland natives Sigur Ros on behalf of Nattura this summer.

Bjork

Bjork and Yorke previously sang together on I've Seen It All, from the 2000 film Dancer in the Dark.

NBC keeps riding with Knight

TELEVISION NBC has ordered four additional scripts for Knight Rider, a positive sign for the freshman drama, which has had a sluggish ratings start.

This is the second new scripted series after CBS' promising crime drama The Mentalist to receive an additional script pickup, often a precursor to a full-season order. Two freshman series, Fox's Fringe and the CW's 90210, have been picked up for a full season.

In its most recent airing Wednesday, Knight Rider attracted 6.9 million viewers, down from 7.8 million the week before.

Fall Out Boy album delayed

MUSIC Fall Out Boy has delayed the release of its new album by six weeks to Dec. 16, citing concerns over the planned election day tie-in for Folie a Deux.

"Six months ago we thought it would be a fun idea to release our album on election day but this is not the election to be cute," the band said in a statement.

The first single from the album, I Don't Care, has sold 167,000 downloads in four weeks of U.S. release, according to Nielsen SoundScan. REUTERS

Networks spin the PVR effect

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

NEVER TOO LATE: The networks are sighing in relief and looking gratefully at the kids and their newfangled technology this week, now that ratings figures for delayed viewing — shows watched on PVRs after they've had their broadcast premiere, in other words — are finally in.

According to a New York Times story from Monday, it took Nielsen three weeks to get an accurate read on delayed viewing numbers, and all in all, the numbers are good, so what's to complain about, right?

What the new technology has done, among other things, is allow the networks to defy simple laws of nature in their quest for viewers, such as the one that says no one can be in two places at the same time. When two big shows face off against each other on the same night — like Grey's Anatomy on ABC and The Office on NBC, for instance — no one has to choose if they can record one, or both, and enjoy them later. Both shows were big beneficiaries of PVR viewing, according to Nielsen, with Grey's Anatomy picking up 4.2 million viewers, and The Office picking up 2.5 million extra pairs of eyes.

House also gets a boost, with 3.7 million viewers watching at their convenience, and Heroes, which has had very soft ratings since its season debut, picked up 42 per cent new viewers in the 18-49 demographic, and a total of 2.4 million new viewers on playback, almost making up for its supposedly lost viewers — no surprise for a show that skews youthfully, and therefore more technologically literate.

Hammering that little sociocultural point home, another geeky, youthful show — Fox's Fringe — also did well in delayed viewing, as did 90210 and How I Met Your Mother. Even more interesting was that Sunday Night Football only picked up a scant 10,000 viewers in delayed viewing, and Dancing With The Stars picked up a mere 15 per cent of younger viewers. These numbers are proof that there are now two types of primetime program: "event" shows that you need to catch live to have something to talk/blog/Facebook/ twitter about, and shows you take in at your leisure, like a rented movie, without caring too much about having plot points spoiled ahead of time. The networks are going to have to figure out which one they're in the business of selling sooner or later, and their choice is going to have a bigger effect on TV than the advent of colour, perhaps even the introduction of cable. They'll have to figure out a new way to make money off of advertisers, though, since the conventional wisdom among ad buyers is that delayed viewing means skipped commercials — the president of research at NBC even went so far as to call PVRs "the ultimate frenemy."

It's a word that's probably going to join "get a horse" in the annals of executive cluelessness one day.

Shows such as The Office, which airs opposite another hit like Grey's Anatomy, are big beneficiaries of the advent of the PVR.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

10/15/08

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV		America's Next Top Model (N)		Monk		Supernatural		Help TV
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada Top 18. (N)				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.		Broadcast News News.						
	-	371	5 KXLY	Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)			Analysis	Pushing Daisies (N)		To Be Announced		
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Birthmarks" (N)		Bones (N)		NCIS "Heartland" (N)		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Biography "Hugh Laurie"		Secret Life of American Teen		Friends	Friends	Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		M pour musique (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	Presidential Debate (Live)				Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Paid Program
	-	374	14 KSPS	Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)				Great Performances "Pavarotti: A Life in Seven Arias"				Crossroads
	502	390	15 CBC	Presidential Debate (Live)				CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Pres. Debate
	-	370	16 KHQ	Presidential Debate (Live)				Knight Rider (HDTV)		Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune
	-	373	22 KAYU	MLB Baseball: NLCS Game 5 -- Phillies at Dodgers				Malcolm-Mid.	According-Jim	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	90210 "The Jet Set"		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim
news	500	500	29 CNN	Presidential Debate (Live)			Debate Night in America Debate discussion.			Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Glenn Beck		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Glenn Beck		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Anaheim Ducks. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre	Triathlon
	408	418	27 net	MLB Baseball: NLCS Game 5 -- Phillies at Dodgers					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Soccer
	410	403	30 SCORE	(5) RaceNight		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage
	411	457	44 OLN	Ed's Up	Adventures	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	World of Quest	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV)		The Biggest Loser: Families (N)				News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion
	521	560	24 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Painted Babies at 17		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Painted Babies
	603	561	25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner Imposs.	Dinner Imposs.	Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520	26 A&E	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Saxondale	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County		Billable Hours	G-Spot	The Riches
	601	562	33 SLICE	Work Out "Sky-Lab 2.0"		Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out "Sky-Lab 2.0"		Housewives
	-	633	34 ENC2	*Air Bud: Fetch*	(7:20) *Jersey Girl* (1992, Comedy-Drama)			*Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice* (1969, Comedy)			*Same Time, Next Year (1978)*	
	520	505	35 DISC	Monster Moves (N)		Mayday Air Canada plane.		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Cash Cab
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order		Without a Trace		*Innocence*
	294	650	40 WPCH	*The Cookout*	Steve Harvey	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	(9:45) *The Cookout* ★ (2004, Comedy) Ja Rule.			
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.
	-	539	42 TCM	(6) *Bringing Up Baby* (1938)		*The Mad Miss Manton* ★★★ (1938, Comedy)			*Gunga Din* ★★★★ (1939, Adventure) Cary Grant. (DVS)			
	628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		CSI: NY "Personal Foul"		Trek: Voyager
	522	516	45 HIST	The Real Amityville Horror		NCIS		Cities of the Underworld		The Real Amityville Horror		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International (N)		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Lost "Exodus"		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *The Enforcer* (1976)		*The Gauntlet* ★★ (1977, Crime Drama) Clint Eastwood, Sondra Locke.					*Navy SEALS* ★★ (1990)	
	619	525	49 TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing		Holmes on Homes		Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 CLT	(6) *At the Midnight Hour*		Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Beautiful Minds		*At-Midnight*
	269	350	93 APTN	News		APTN National News: Contact		Reel Insights		Canadian Geographic		Tribal Treks
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal
	571	581	100 MMM	Listed		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five
	570	580	101 MM	PunchMuch		MTV's Top Pop Group		disBand	Technical Diff.	Punk'd	Springbreak.08	
	581	566	102 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Exiled	Real World-Rd

critics' corner

Presidential Debate
Foreign policy is the subject du jour as Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama reunite for their third debate. Bob Schieffer, CBS News' chief Washington correspondent and moderator of "Face the Nation," moderates the event, held at Hofstra University on New York's Long Island. 7 PM on KXLY KREM CBC KHQ

Dog the Bounty Hunter
In this new episode, "Trick or Treat," it's Halloween, and before Dog and Beth can help the kids carve their pumpkins, they have some business to attend to. Their quarry is Robert, a tattoo artist with a bad habit of missing court dates. Dog and the team's first stop is the fugitive's house, where they make an alarming discovery: Robert likes to collect weapons, lots of them. The next place to look? The tattoo parlor. Will there be weapons there, too? 7 PM on A&E

Babies named
Singer Lisa Marie Presley and her husband, Michael Lockwood, have picked out names for their newborn twin girls: Finley and Harper. The couple's first children together were born Oct. 7. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Lohan's leggings honour Monroe

FASHION Lindsay Lohan is getting a leg up on fashion, having launched her own line of leggings yesterday, People.com reports.

The actress just posted on her MySpace page that the newest collection 6126 was to hit Henri Bendel's N.Y.C. store yesterday.

"I'm thrilled to announce that my new fashion collection, 6126, is finally ready for launch!!" she says. "I love to wear leggings, so it should come as no surprise that my first venture into the world of fashion design is with leggings!" She goes on to explain the brand's cryptic name, saying, "I named the collection after Marilyn Monroe's birth date, because to me she represents timeless, confident glam — and that is the voice of this brand."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Potter star spotted touring Harvard

EDUCATION Harry Potter star Emma Watson is taking her U.S. college plans to the highest level by touring one of the America's most prestigious universities, imdb.com reports.

The young actress was spotted visiting the campus of Harvard University in Massachusetts last week for an open day.

Watson hinted about her plans to study abroad in an interview earlier this year.

"I've applied to a few universities for next year, including several American ones," she said. "If I do go there (America), I will do a liberal arts degree, but if I stay in the U.K. I'll do English literature."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Madonna's impressive ethic

PEOPLE Pop superstar-turned-movie director Madonna impressed the cast on the set of her filmmaking debut Filth And Wisdom by showing up on set at the crack of dawn every day, imdb.com reports.

Madonna, whose comedy premiered in New York on Monday night, stunned lead actress Holly Weston by showing how dedicated she was to the project.

"She knew exactly what she wanted and there was no in between. She made everything very clear," Weston tells the New York Daily News. "Everything had to be perfect. I think she was even there before us in the morning."

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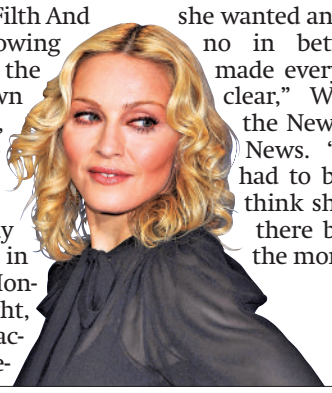

Sopranos star takes on fashion

PEOPLE Jamie-Lynn Sigler is joining the ranks of other celebrity designers and trying her hand at a jewellery line, People.com reports.

The former Sopranos star and her friend Holly Freeman are teaming up to create a custom line of bangles and pendant necklaces ready for order at the beginning of the year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beckham staffers arrested for alleged theft

PEOPLE Two staff members working for Victoria and David Beckham have been arrested in England on suspicion of theft, imdb.com reports.

The housekeepers, who work at the celebrity couple's mansion in England, dubbed Beckingham Palace by the British media, were taken into police custody on Monday.

According to tabloid reports in the U.K., the former Spice Girl's parents, who run the Beckhams' estate in Hertfordshire, became suspicious of their staff after personal items from the Beckhams' home turned up on auctioning website EBay.

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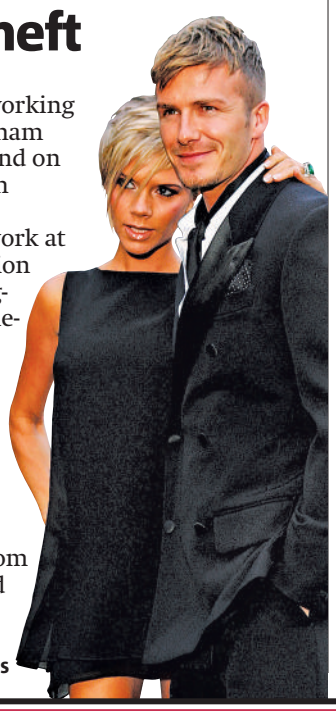


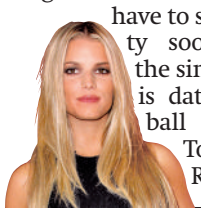
celebrity briefs

Aniston, Mayer seen smooching

ROMANCE Actress Jennifer Aniston and singer John Mayer were spotted reportedly kissing in Los Angeles on Monday, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The pair, who split last month, reportedly arrived at the airport and were seen in a series of steamy clinches.

Simpson wants six children

FAMILY Jessica Simpson has revealed she wants six children, femalefirst.co.uk reports. "I'd love six kids running around, but I guess I'll have to start pretty soon," said the singer, who is dating football player Tony Romo.



Slater eager for Heathers sequel

PEOPLE Actor Christian Slater is reportedly eager to return to the big screen alongside Winona Ryder in a sequel to their hit film Heathers, imdb.com reports. "Yeah, sometimes I see Winona (Ryder) and she's like, 'Are you ready to do Heathers 2?' And I'm like, 'Sure!' I would do it in a heartbeat. I would totally love to do that character again, J.D.," Slater tells AOL Television.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

FameThrower

Joe O'Neill

Joe's take on celebrities

Jennifer Aniston and **John Mayer** are officially the principals of the According to Jim of celebrity relationships. You didn't pay any attention to it the first time it was on, and now for some unfathomable reason, it's in reruns. That's right, the woman who could dig potatoes with her chin and the guy who makes me wish **Stevie Ray Vaughan** had a better helicopter pilot are "reheating the cabbage," as the Italians say.

Or so they would have you believe. Isn't it funny that every time St. Angelina, Our Lady of Perpetual Hype, is on the cover of a magazine for doing something extraordinary like providing sustenance for her children, **Brad Pitt**'s ex gets herself in the news either for declaring that she doesn't need anybody, or for snogging with the **Jimi Hendrix** of the Ritalin generation?

The details of the latest press release seem to have been written by Jen herself. Perhaps she is contemplating writing a series of romance novels with herself as the heroine. These would be a great addition to the children's book she penned in the '90s, The Prettiest Friend, and her signature perfume, Cougar, which doubles as a pregnancy test.

What's the name of that film Aniston is about to start promoting? Oh, yeah, He's Just Not That Into You. Coincidence, surely.

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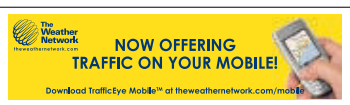
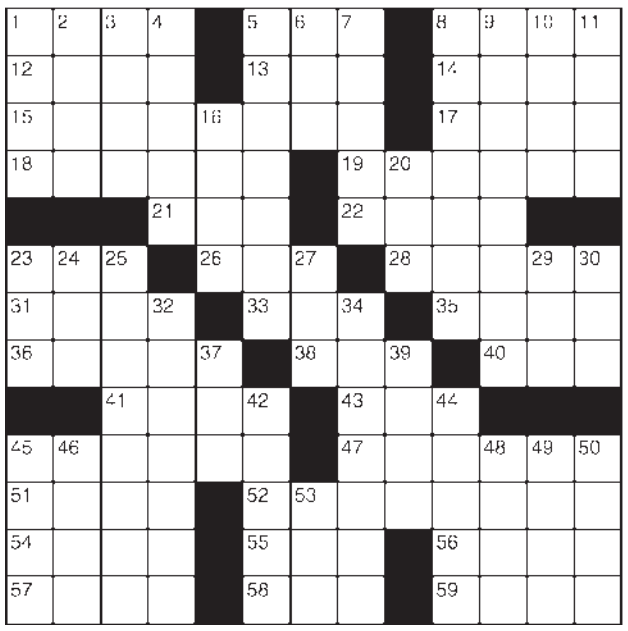
Today
Partly cloudy
7° / -6°

Thursday
Sunny
8° / -2°

Friday
Partly cloudy
16° / -1°



Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5		4					
3	7					8		1
		2		1				7
6		9		5	4			
	3						5	
			8	3		7		9
2				8		1		
1		6					9	2
					1		7	

Crossword across

1 “Cheers” order
5 Cleo’s slayer
8 Look lecherously
12 Needle case
13 Prohibit
14 Incursion
15 Grotesque carving
17 Raised
18 Sailing vessels
19 Like wet roads
21 Sleep phenom
22 Location
23 Gasoline stat
26 Nev. neighbor
28 Jeans material
31 Support group?
33 Romanian money
35 FDR is on it
36 Heart line?
38 Switch settings
40 Likely
41 Karma
43 Collection
45 Accommodated
47 Squat
51 Duel tool
52 Chickpea
54 Gangster’s gal pal
55 Time of your life?
56 Celebrity
57 Race place
58 Tier
59 Rent

Crossword down

1 Pleads
2 And others (Lat.)
3 Franc replacement
4 Severity
5 Immeasurably deep
6 “Erie Canal” mule
7 Iron
8 Traveled around the world?
9 Corsage flower
10 Told tales
11 Whirlpool
16 Oil cartel
20 Tease
23 Biz deg.
24 Yes voter
25 Jon Arbuckle’s cat
27 Zodiac sign
29 Demonic tyke
30 Bumped into
32 Grand
34 Remove a lightbulb
37 Packed away
39 Belgrade dweller
42 Candice’s dad
44 Raise a glass to
45 Half (Pref.)
46 “Once — a time ...”
48 “Do — others ...”
49 Despot
50 Gridlock noisemaker
53 In olden days

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	9	3	6	8	2	4	7	1
7	1	6	3	4	5	2	8	9
4	2	8	7	1	9	3	5	6
3	5	7	1	6	8	9	4	2
9	6	2	4	5	7	1	3	8
8	4	1	2	9	3	7	6	5
6	7	4	8	2	1	5	9	3
1	3	5	9	7	6	8	2	4
2	8	9	5	3	4	6	1	7

Find today’s answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Grilled swordfish steaks with tomato and pepper salsa

INGREDIENTS:
4 swordfish or other fish steaks, about 5 ¼ oz (150 g) each
4 tbsp (60 mL) extra virgin olive oil
Juice of 1 small orange
1 garlic clove, crushed
Pepper to taste
1 orange, cut into wedges, to garnish

TOMATO AND PEPPER SALSA:
7 oz (200 g) Italian tomatoes, diced
1/2 red pepper, seeded and diced
1/2 red onion, finely chopped
Juice of 1 small orange
½ oz (15 g) fresh basil, chopped
1 tbsp (15 mL) balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon caster (superfine) sugar
Pepper to taste

METHOD:
1. Place fish steaks in a shallow non-metallic dish. Mix together olive oil, orange juice, garlic and pepper to season, and spoon over the fish steaks.
2. For salsa, combine tomatoes, red pepper, onion, orange juice, basil, balsamic vinegar and sugar, and season with pepper. Spoon into serving bowl.
3. Heat a lightly oiled, ridged cast-iron grill pan or a heavy-based frying pan over a high heat. Place the fish steaks in the grill pan or in the frying pan and cook for 2–3 minutes per side, basting from time to time with oil mixture, until fish flakes easily.
4. Place fish steaks on individual warm serving plates and grind over some additional black pepper. Garnish fish with wedges of orange and serve with salsa.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month’s Reader’s Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Rely on your wits when someone slows progress. Change anything that interferes with sincerity. Being dignified wins, when someone is shouting.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Thoughtless actions will cause headaches. A brave soul gives up in frustration. Don’t argue about money with a fool.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You’ll get an unexpected offer from a long-lost friend. Distinguish yourself by contacting an elder. A woman is more helpful than a bad boy.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Secret messages are the solution to a mix-up. Don’t take chances to end a bothersome situation. A desperado tempts someone with bad taste.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Keep away from a scared brunette. A friend is fired up about having a good time. Don’t let pride provoke a misunderstanding.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone who admires you will speak up. A worker is incompetent. Speculation will make you flustered.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be witty in a scintillating situation. Suspicion falls on a fool and his money. Impressive moves are made by a mature woman.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A foolish schemer is caught at last. Mischief-makers will run rampant. A friendly woman is accused of having a secret agenda.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try to understand why you flipped your lid. An agreement in principle comes easily. Make up your mind without interference.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Have pity on the bewildered. A formidable friend modifies unrealistic expectations. A warrior wants to find the truth.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Avoid making whimsical remarks. A wicked scheme will cause laughter. Happiness grows when difficulties cause unexpected giggles.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
People may not be ready for a drastic change. Searching reveals a good alternative to gloom. Visit with a musical friend.

WORDY GURDY©

BY PICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Smack a baseball catcher’s glove (1)
2. Confront an anti-mugger spray (1)
3. Bandleader Miller’s writing tools (1)
4. “Right away, Lone Ranger friend!” (2)
5. Bigger-spending credit card user (2)
6. Actress Mia’s archery equipment (2)
7. First-rate game with brooms on ice (2)

ANSWERS
1. HIT MITT 2. FACE MACE 3. QUEENS PENS 4. PRONTO TONTO 5. LARGER CHARGER 6. ARROWS ARROWS 7. STERLING CURLING

This day in history

OCT. 15, 1863: American Civil War: The CSS H. L. Hunley, the first submarine to sink a ship, sinks during a test, killing its inventor, Horace L. Hunley.
OCT. 15, 1951: Television sitcom I Love Lucy premieres.
OCT. 15, 1951: Mexican chemist Luis E. Miramontes synthesized the first oral contraceptive.
OCT. 15, 1981: Professional cheerleader Krazy George Henderson leads what is thought to be the first audience wave in Oakland, Calif.
OCT. 15, 1989: Wayne Gretzky becomes the all-time leading points scorer in the NHL.

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